

*General**forwarded 5/23/83*

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CERCLA Sites Information

James Dunn
Environmental Engineer 8MOHamid Saebfar
Office of Waste Programs
Enforcement WH-527

A. Anaconda Smelter

1. Responsible Party

Anaconda Minerals Company retains control of the property that it closed in September, 1980 as a primary copper smelter. There is active company involvement to date at the site, despite its current status. The site is currently undergoing demolition activities.

Anaconda Minerals Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO). While ARCO remains financially solvent, speculation exists that Anaconda Minerals may not exist in the future.

2. Endangerment Assessment

Contaminants of concern are arsenic, cadmium, lead, copper and zinc. These metals may be mobilized in to groundwater from a number of waste sources, namely 250,000 tons+ of flue dust and several thousand acres of tailings ponds. These metals have been detected in high (1000-2000 ppm) levels in soils surrounding the Company property.

Additional concern arises that concentrations of these metals may leave the site as surface water runoff or fugitive dust. Arsenic is a suspected carcinogen. Toxicosis to cattle and commercial bee operations is being evaluated. A 1975 health study indicated elevated metals' levels in area populace. Exposure would be through contact (dermal) or inhalation. No evidence has surfaced yet on drinking water supply contamination, although aquifer contamination has been established.

MEMO

forwarded to HQ
5/19/93

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TO: HAMID SAEBAFAR (WH-527)
OFFICE OF WASTE PROGRAMS ENFORCEMENT
EPA HEADQUARTERS, WSM
FROM: Jim Dunn (8110)
REGION VIII MONTANA OFFICE

SUBJECT: CERCLA SITES INFORMATION

A. ANACONDA SMELTER

1. RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Anacoda Minerals Company retains control of the property that it closed in September, 1980 as a primary copper smelter. There is active company involvement to date at the site, despite its current status. The site is currently undergoing demolition activities.

Anacoda Minerals Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO). While ARCO remains financially solvent, speculation exists that Anacoda Minerals may not exist in the future.

2. ENDANGERMENT ASSESSMENT

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(1)

2 -
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B. ASARCO - East Helena

1. RESPONSIBLE PARTY

ASARCO (American Smelting and Refining Company) operates smelters throughout the U.S. and is involved in ventures outside of the U.S. They are the current owners and operators of the East Helena smelter, which is currently producing primary lead and other precious metals from ores. It is the largest custom smelter in the U.S. Cash as a % of net working capital is (2)

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calculated to be \$7.2 million, so the Company appears to be financially solvent.

2. ENDANGERMENT ASSESSMENT

Contaminants of concern are lead, arsenic, cadmium, and zinc. A 1975 health effects study found quite elevated levels of lead in blood of young children (age 1-5). A recent chemical mass balance study by Montana DHEC - Air Quality Bureau attributed as much as 25% of the populace exposure to reentrainment of metals deposited in soils. A follow-up health effects study is now scheduled for July 1983.

Primary contact mechanisms would be through ingestion and inhalation. Children are most susceptible, and chronic metals exposure leads to brain and CNS damage. This translates into learning disabilities and motor dysfunction. The entire town of East Helena and surrounding areas (8.4 mi²) contain >1000 ppm of lead. Other metals have been quantified but not to the same extent as has lead. The metals may have leached into ground and surface waters, and have been taken up in area crops and livestock, resulting in cattle death.

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